

# about**first** news

May, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

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issue 212, May 2018

First United Methodist Church  
718 Clay Street  
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613  
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Announcements and editorial content for publication may be submitted to the First UMC media office by the 20th of each preceding month. Email to: [chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

In April I shared a story about a Sunday School teacher asking her class, "What did it feel like when you walked into the church this morning?" One little girl answered, "It was like walking into the heart of God." I will miss walking into our church on Sunday mornings, because when I enter the Sanctuary through the "secret door" it is like walking into a family reunion. It is buzzing with conversation, laughter and joy. For me, "it is like walking into the heart of God."

I believe that every church should strive to have that same atmosphere of a warm and friendly place for anyone who walks through their doors, whether they are old-timers or newcomers. It should make no difference who they are and where they came from when they enter any church. Everyone should feel welcome.

I am sure that most of you are aware that the United Methodist Church is in deep disagreement about what we should teach about homosexuality, same gender marriage, and the ordination of LGBTQ persons. A special session of General Conference will be held in 2019 to consider these issues and how they will be addressed by the United Methodist Church. On April 22, we filled our Fellowship Hall with United Methodists from all over our District to participate with our Bishop Laurie Haller in a conversation on this very issue.

Homosexuality is a very divisive issue. Different folks in our congregation have dramatically different opinions on the subject. There are some who welcome homosexuality because either you, or your children or grandchildren, or your family members, or your friends are gay or lesbian, and you have come to love them and see them as children of God.

There are others who believe the acceptance of homosexuality is an example of how society is either ignoring or badly interpreting or even defying what you hold to be God's clear commands in Scripture. You believe homosexuality to be a sin incompatible with Christian teaching.

Others of you feel caught in the middle between people who feel strongly: you think it's complicated and you don't know exactly what to think, but it breaks your heart to see people in such conflict, and you just wish people could get along better.

The Bible says that the church is like a family, where we are brothers and sisters with each other. If your family is like mine; then there are a lot of important things that you and your family members disagree about or even fight about. But at the end of the day you are still family; you are still held together by something deeper than whether you agree or not. You are held together by the fact that you have been made part of one another, and you are held together by stubborn, durable, steady love.

The church family is like that. We are a family that can disagree about many things, but at the end of the day we are held together by something deeper than we have to agree about everything, or even about every important thing; we are held together by the fact that God's grace has rescued us and is remaking us and has made us a part of one another. We are held together by love, the love of Christ.

That love does not banish disagreement, but it does join us in an oneness deeper than all differences, a faith more enduring than our fights, a reconciliation that outlasts our wrongs.

Perhaps we even need some level of disagreement for this love to grow among us.

Perhaps God has many reasons for putting us with very different people, with our dueling facebook posts and our rival news sources, and sitting all together, next to each other in the same pews. Perhaps one of those reasons is to learn the meaning of love. Perhaps it is only by learning to love people we disagree with, only by learning to love people who we know are wrong, only by learning to love sinners that we learn what love, Christ-like love really is.

My hope and prayer is that we will continue to walk together with Christ -

*Pastor Steve*

## From Death Shrouds to New Life...He is STILL Risen

I hope you are having a wonderful season of Easter! Some think that the season of Easter is just one Sunday of the year. The liturgical season of Easter actually lasts 50 days up until Pentecost Sunday. This season has historically been used to prepare Christians for mission and evangelism. It is used to teach the church how to “be the church” usually with a big send off for Pentecost. In light of us being in the thick of the Easter season, I would like to share some thoughts with you on John’s account of the resurrection.



### John 20:3-10

*3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.*

Isn’t it remarkable that nearly 1/3 of John’s account of the empty tomb is spent talking about...grave clothes? Strips of linen...how they were left...how they were arranged.... John appears to have a morbid fascination with death shrouds. Even in the midst of resurrection he appears to speak so much of death. Is that not how many of us live our lives as well? In spite of Christ’s offering of new life, we allow ourselves to be weighed down by the shroud of our continual sins. The bible describes this method of living by likening it to, “A dog that returns to its vomit” (Proverbs 26:11).

But look beyond the grave clothes. Perhaps John is not enamored with the grave clothes themselves...but rather...the one who no longer NEEDS grave clothes. Likewise, Christ is not hung up on your sins, but interested in offering you life. For he is risen just as he said. When we too shake off the shroud of sin and death and step forward to a resurrected life, that my friends is when all things become new. In resurrection, the old life has passed away and we behold the new possibilities in our blessed Lord. May your Easter season be filled with new possibilities in this life, and the life to come. Let us die to sin and rise in new life with Christ. Happy Easter!

Pastor Matt

## That’s a Wrap

What a great spring season of Fusion Tonight we had: great speakers and great crowds! We’ve heard awesome stories of faith from people inside and outside of our congregation. Even Cedar Falls Mayor Jim Brown stopped by to share how his faith is the guiding force for his life. Our only regret is that a snowstorm forced us to cancel on the night that Black Hawk County Sheriff Tony Thompson was scheduled to come. We’ll try to book him next fall.

Our spring season ended on April 25 with a powerful message from Lesley Toma. From all of the Fusion Tonight cast and crew, thank you for a successful season, and we look forward to seeing you next September.

host: Jon Cooper  
announcer: Gabbi Cooper  
music lead: Coved Oswald  
bass: Alex Templeton

stage manager: Sue Ney  
tech 1: Chris Congdon  
tech 2: Jacob Bonebrake



## Heads Up - Summer Hours!

Summer worship times will begin Sunday, June 3.

- 8:30 Transformation Worship
- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 10:00 Traditional Worship

## Q How Many Methodists Does It Take to Pull-Off a Sunday Morning?

### A All of Them!

There’s a role for all of us to play as we gather together on Sunday morning, and what a joy it is to know that each one of us can have a positive impact on the worship experience. We have ongoing needs for greeters, tech operators, coffee servers, bus drivers, worship leaders, scripture readers and more. Here are areas where we are especially need help:

### Join the usher team

We have two spots to fill at the 11:00 services (10:00 in summertime), one in the January/May/September team and on in the March/July/November team. Please consider serving the church by joining one of these teams. Marilyn Teig is the contact for questions. You can get her contact information from the church office.

### Welcome Center Hosts

We are looking for individuals to be present at the Welcome Center. The times we need are 9:45-10:45. It is important to have members present in case we have guests joining us. Please let Jenna Engel know if you are interested.

### Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at several Sunday morning services. Contact Doug Shaffer if you would like to share your gift of music. 319-610-4249 musicman52151@gmail.com



## Spring Bell Concert – May 6

It's official: spring is here. We know this because the annual spring bell concert is next Sunday, at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. The bell choirs are honored to participate in worship and this end-of-season concert is their gift to the congregation.



## Come Home for Dinner – May 6

Come to Church and leave well-fed on Sunday, May 6. HOME Team will be serving home made beef and noodles from 11:00 - 12:30 in Fellowship Hall. Cost of the meal is a free-will contribution. All proceeds will help send our kids to summer camp, summer games, and Iowa Annual Conference.

## Financial Forum – Sunday, May 20

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 10:00am

**Who:** You are invited and encouraged to attend

The Finance Committee has made a pledge to continue to keep our congregation informed on the Financial Status for 2018. The committee is preparing for a Financial Forum on Sunday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Place. You are invited to attend.

We began 2018 with a serious financial challenge as our pledges are down nearly \$90,000 from 2017. In 2017, we had 254 pledges totaling \$718,985, and this year our total is 247 pledges for \$629,545. Much of the decline can be attributed to the deaths of some generous givers, and others moving from our community.

In February we challenged the congregation with the “From the Heart” Campaign to increase giving by 10% while at the same time the leadership of the church looked seriously at reducing the budget by 10% for the year. Because of the generosity, and the work of the church leadership we were able to cut our faith gap (Faith Gap is equal to our budget minus our pledges), but we are still not out of the woods yet.

The Finance Committee is preparing to demonstrate where we are financially as a congregation, and what we need to do to pay our bills and support the ministry and mission of our church. You will have the opportunity to see the up-to-date numbers and ask questions about our financial situation. We encourage everyone to attend because we are all invested in our church.

We are asking everyone to help “Lift the Load” as we seek to use all of our gifts in making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Softball Team Bake Sale - May 6

Our First UMC softball team is raising funds to pay the league entry fee, so they can defend their league championship! A bake sale is planned for Sunday, May 6 in our Gathering Space. Are you able to help by baking? If so contact Julee Bernard (319) 830-1511.

Prefer just to consume baked goods? Then bring your \$\$ and your appetite on May 6!

Are you a softball player? If so contact Steve Bernard (319)939-2706 to join the fun!

## Habitat for Humanity Work Day

This year's Fun & Fellowship committee Habitat for Humanity Build event is Saturday, June 30th from 8:30-3:00. There is room for 10 volunteers. Since there are multiple Habitat for Humanity houses in different build stages going on in the area, details explaining the location and what we'll be doing will be sent by June 23rd. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place. Any questions, contact Heath Wilken at 319-610-3424.

## Take Me Out To The Ball Game

Fun & Fellowship Night at the Waterloo Bucks is Saturday, June 2, gates open at 5:35 – first pitch at 6:35, fireworks following the game. Reserved seat tickets can be purchased from Cindi Knox for only \$7. This is also Relay For Life night and a portion of the ticket sold by Cindi will go to the FUMC Cancer Crushers Relay For Life team. Deadline to purchase tickets is May 28.

## Every Dollar Counts in May

A very generous family in our church has offered to cover our mortgage interest in the month of May. That means every additional dollar we pay toward our mortgage in the month of May will go directly to reducing our principle mortgage amount. This is another great opportunity to take another big bite out of our outstanding debt. If you can help with a special contribution to the building fund during the month of May, please drop your contribution in the Sunday offering plate, or bring it to the church office by May 31.



## Help Lift the Load – The Building Loan

On July 3, 2011, we broke ground for our Building Project after years of planning. We would not be in this fortunate place if it had not been for the congregation's courageous leap of faith to move forward and build for the future. It truly was a statement of faith in God's faithfulness as shown through the years; it also showed we had faith in ourselves to move ahead and do it!

We needed to borrow \$1,461,000 from First National Bank (FNB) to pay for the \$2,400,000 project. Over the years we have passed several milestones including the \$1,000,000 mark and the halfway point! As of April 23, our Mortgage Balance is \$373,984! We have come a long way! Thank you for generous support.

For the past 5 years our interest rate was set at a fixed 3.25% on the Building Loan. Under the terms of our loan, the interest rate on our loan at July 1, 2018 is to change to be 2.75% over the Federal Home Loan Bank's 5 year rate. Al Bernard was asked by the Finance Committee to visit with FNB about the options we have on the loan.

Al visited FNB on March 26, and the Federal Home Loan Bank rate was 2.99%, so if our loan interest rate was to change that day it would go to  $2.75\% + 2.99\% = 5.74\%$ . FNB indicated that 2.99% would be the lowest possible rate, because it could be even higher, since the Federal Reserve has announced it is raising interest rates 2 more times this year.

The bank made a generous offer to raise our rate to 4.75% rather than 5.74%. This is the savings of almost 1%. The rate will be good for 3 years from the date we sign the new documents regarding the loan. Our monthly minimum payment will remain as it is now - \$6,398.79, and we can continue to make additional payments on the loan as we have been doing each month. If the amortization period remained the same the monthly payments would have increased \$400. The Finance Committee voted to accept the FNB's generous offer of 4.75%, and thanked Al Bernard for his work.

## Rummage Sale News

We are looking forward to another great year in our mission goal to serve others in our local community. Please start saving and sorting useable and saleable "stuff" to bring to the Church. As in the past, we would request no TV's, computers, or paint. The first day to bring items is Tuesday, May 29th. Rooms will be ready in the lower level under Fellowship Hall and will be clearly marked.

The sale is scheduled for July 26 - 28 of this coming summer!

An organizational meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 3rd at 6:30PM in the Chapel for anyone interested in helping with this sale! It is a wonderful way to meet other Church members you might not know very well! And, there are a lot of opportunities to help in the evenings.

If you have helped in the past to coordinate a specific area of the sale, I am counting on you once again for your expertise!!

Any questions, contact Maxine Kehret (319-296-1518).

## Carol Dick Takes Visitation Role

In recent weeks Flo Mobley has broken her hip, and Dee Behr has been facing severe pain issues. They both are taking a leave until they have recovered. Carol Dick will be replacing them as our Parish Visitor until Flo and Dee fully recover. We appreciate Carol's willingness to step in during this time to help with such an important ministry for our church. So you will be seeing a familiar face calling on members of our congregation. Keep Flo and Dee in your prayers.

# 6 Events

## May 1 - Grief Support Session

**Where:** Church Parlor

**When:** 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Our May grief support session will be held on Tuesday, May 1st from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the church parlor. If you are grieving the loss of someone special, it may help to attend a group with others who can empathize, pray with, and encourage you in your grief journey. New participants are always welcome, both members of First UMC and others. Please call Carol through the church office at 266-1713 with questions. Our grief support team also offers other support. Please do not hesitate to call.

## May 1 - Food Bank Work Crew

**Where:** Northeast Iowa Food Bank

**When:** 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join the crew from our church that helps at the Food Bank the first Tuesday of each month. Often we fill grocery bags with kid friendly good for the Backpack program. Sometimes we get selected for other much needed jobs. It's always a good time and a great bunch of people. You can carpool with Lisa Congdon or get yourself to the Food Bank at 1605 Lafayette Street in Waterloo. Would you like to be on the reminder email or do you want to know more? Contact Lisa in the church office. [lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

## May 8th - Card Making Party

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 1:00-5:00 pm

It's time for another card making party! Come join the Congregational Care Team. No experience (or special skills) necessary. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and then stay for Community Meals for a delicious meal.

Last quarter's profits from our card rack totaled \$183.50 and were donated to the Wee Care ministry. This quarter's profits will be given to Community Meals. Watch for Mother's Day, graduation, and our regular cards on the rack by the church office.

Our thanks to all the people to donate and remake cards, to Laurene Bernard for keeping the card rack organized, and to Jean Richardson and Pauline Harding for sending cards to congregations members.

## May 17 - First Friends Potluck

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** noon - 2:00pm

Everyone is welcome! Spend some time enjoying good food, card games, dominos, cribbage, etc. Fellowship is an important part of the gathering. Check us out! Come and get better acquainted with others in the church. Couples and singles are welcome. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. We meet on the third Thursday of every month from noon until 2 pm in the Gathering Place.

## May 20 - Ying Quartet

First UMC is happy to be hosting the Ying Quartet on Sunday, May 20 at 2:00pm. They will present a concert of music by Dvorak. Tickets and information are available at [cedarvalleymusic.org](http://cedarvalleymusic.org).

## May 21 - LifeServe Blood Drive

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 12:30-6:00

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, May 21 from 12:30-6:00. Donors, cookie bakers, and hosts are needed. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill. Sign up to donate at [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org). Use the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center to let Lisa know if you can donate cookies or chat and serve cookies to the donors for an hour or so.

## May 22 - Crafter's Corner

**Where:** Church Parlor

**When:** 6:00 - 8:00 pm

This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project to work on or give your time and talent to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade gifts for those in need, or prayer shawls for those in need. Thank you to all who have donated craft items - we are well stocked and need to use up what we have. Please contact Crystal Wilken at [crystalwilken@gmail.com](mailto:crystalwilken@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Monday Night Softball

Softball season has begun! Our First UMC team plays in the Cedar Falls Church League on Monday nights at Birdsall Park. Fan support is always appreciated, so join your friends at Birdsall Park and cheer on the team!

The schedule for the rest of this month is:

May 7 - 6:30 on field 2

May 14 - 8:30 on field 2

May 21 - 8:30 on field 3

May 28 - NO SOFTBALL

## Zumba Every Thursday!

You can always Zumba with us on Thursdays at 5:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall! A free-will contribution of a couple of bucks is appreciated. Contact [mary.friedrich@cfu.net](mailto:mary.friedrich@cfu.net) if you have questions. Come and dance...it's never too late to join us on this fun fitness adventure!

## Recurring Weekly:

### Sunday

8:00 prayer in the chapel  
 8:30 Transformation Worship  
 8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place  
 9:45 Sunday School for some adults  
 10:00 Frederika UMC worship  
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship  
 11:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast, CF Family Restaurant  
 9:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel  
 9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, 059  
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30-8:00 men's group  
 7:00-9:00 AA, 055

### Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor  
 5:15 AA, 055  
 6:30 WOW AA, 055  
 7:30-8:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal, choir rm

### Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

## Also Scheduled....

### TUESDAY May 1

2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor  
 6:00 Food Bank Work Crew

### WEDNESDAY May 2

6:00ish youth go to Renner campground  
 6:00 Discerning the Voice of God, chapel  
 6:15-7:30 Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary

### THURSDAY May 3

1:30 Metro Cluster, library  
 6:30 Trustees, 057  
 6:30 Rummage Sale meeting, chapel

### FRIDAY May 4

5:00-9:00 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place

### SUNDAY May 6

Softball team bake sale  
 9:45 New member class, parlor  
 10:00 Padma Templeton @ Frederika UMC  
 10:30 Lisa Congdon @ Washington Chapel  
 11:00 Come Home For Dinner  
 Noon UMC Sportsmen meeting at Toads  
 7:00 Bell Concert, sanctuary  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 Cub Scouts (10), 056

### MONDAY May 7

9:30 UMW Board meeting, library  
 10:00 FirstKids worship  
 1:00 Memorial Committee, parlor  
 6:30 Stephen Ministry Super, lower level  
 6:30 Softball Game, field 2

### TUESDAY May 8

8:45-11:30 PEO mtg chapel  
 1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place  
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place  
 6:30 men's group, 059

### WEDNESDAY May 9

2:00 Communion Service, Western Home  
 6:30 Finance Committee, library  
 6:30 VBS meeting, parlor

### THURSDAY May 10

noon UMW salad lunch and Unit meeting  
 6:30 SPRC, 057

### SUNDAY May 13

9:45 New member class, parlor  
 10:30 Shawna Brimm at Washington Chapel

### MONDAY May 14

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 5:30 First Kids Board meeting,  
 6:00 HOME Team, chapel  
 6:30 Endowment, library  
 8:30 Softball game, field 2

### WEDNESDAY May 16

11:00 Pinnacle Care chapel service  
 6:30 Fun & Fellowship, library

### THURSDAY May 17

Noon-3:00 1st Friends potluck, Gather place  
 3:30-5:30 Ying String Quartet rehearsal,

### SATURDAY May 19

11:00 family bike ride, UMC Sportsmen  
 1:00-4 Alex Templeton Grad Open House  
 4:00 Boy Scouts & Mothers dinner

### SUNDAY May 20

June Newsletter Deadline  
 Pentecost Sunday  
 9:45 Finance open forum, Gathering Place  
 9:45 Sunday School for all ages - Last day  
 9:45 New member class, parlor  
 10:00 Chris Congdon @ Waterloo First UMC  
 2:00 Ying String Quartet Concert  
 5:30-8:00 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### MONDAY May 21

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor  
 12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place  
 6:30 Ad Council, library  
 6:30 Pack 44 Advancement, Fell Hall  
 8:30 Softball field 3

### TUESDAY May 22

1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

### WEDNESDAY May 23

2:00 Windermere Communion Service

### THURSDAY May 24

9:30 Mary Circle, parlor  
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor

### SUNDAY May 27

Memorial Sunday  
 Peace with Justice offering  
 10:00 Padma Templeton at Frederika

### MONDAY May 28

Memorial Day, church office closed

### TUESDAY May 29

first day to bring rummage

### THURSDAY May 31

Noon - newsletter labeling  
 4:30-7:30 Pre-K Girl Scouts, Gathering Place  
 6:30 Rummage Sale meeting, chapel



## Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 10th-14th

Let's vacation in Babylon! At Babylon Vacation Bible School, we'll visit Babylon through the eyes of Daniel. Kids and adults will discover they're not much different from Daniel and his friends. We'll learn that like Daniel, we can courageously keep our faith even when things aren't going so well. Through this interactive program, children will be guided through beach-themed, music, crafts, science activities, recreation, Bible stories and much more.

### Mark your calendars:

- May 13th is Mother's Day. The Education Committee will have a photo booth in the Gathering Space.
- May 20th is our last Sunday of Sunday school.



### Wednesday Night Thanks!

What an awesome spring season of CrazyFunBusy Wednesday nights we just had. We couldn't have done it without your help: serving and cleaning up the Filling Station, helping with the BLAST kids and the youth group, and everything else you did to make First UMC the place to be on Wednesday nights. We'll do it all again next fall, so watch for kick-off information.

Pre-registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. Contribution is voluntary, and is not a requirement to attend. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark "VBS".

Please complete one registration form per child.

We are **looking for volunteers**. If you would like to become a part of Vacation Bible School, please contact Jenna Engel.



### Plan Your Summer Camp Adventure Now!

Church Camp is an adventure that every kid should experience. The Iowa United Methodist Camp catalog is available and there's an adventure for everyone at one of our three Iowa United Methodist Camps. Horses, go-karts, swimming, art - there's all kinds of camps to choose from and they all include meeting new friends and a good, healthy dose of the great outdoors. Learn more about God by meeting his other children and having the adventure of a lifetime. Find the camp catalog online at <https://www.iaumc.org/camps> or talk to Jenna Engel for a printed copy.



### Camp Scholarships Available

We want every kid to go to camp, and every youth to attend Summer Games University. We realize summer camp can be expensive, and so we have some funds available to help offset the costs to families. To learn more about camp scholarships, talk to Jenna Engel in the Education Office.

Applications are due May 20.

This spring we have raised \$1044 toward Methodist Camp scholarships and \$425 toward special camperships. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this fund!



# Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 10 - Thursday, June 14

6:15-8:15 pm

Pre- registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. Contribution is voluntary, and is not a requirement to attend. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark "VBS". Please complete one registration form per child.



## Participating Child

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Fall 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ (must turn 3 years old by September 15 to attend this year)

Names of Parents and adults authorized to pick up children. \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information

Primary \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

## Health information

Please indicate any information about your child that we should know, I.E. allergies, medication, special restrictions, special needs, special friendships we should encourage, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of emergency, I authorize the First United Methodists' VBS Staff consent to appropriate medical treatment for my child \_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

If you are helping and will be here during VBS you do not have to complete the physician information.

Child's doctor's name and phone are listed below:

Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Physician's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## media release

First United Methodist Church may use photographs and video of my child's participation in VBS activities. I understand that photo and video images will NOT be labeled with children's names. circle: yes / no initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## Sunday School Classes for Everyone

Preschool through 6th grade rooms are down stairs. 7th-12th room is on the 3rd floor. If you are new to the church or have a three year old and would like to get them involved with Sunday School please contact Jenna Engel.

## Adult Sunday School

Everyone is welcome - you do not need to be a member of First UMC to attend.

## CCF (Christ Centered Families)

This class will focus on strengthening our families and developing our young children into strong Christians.

Room: 057

## Growing Christians

Our studies generally vary during the year from Bible studies, applying Biblical principles and the gifts that God puts into our lives. Room 056, Kris Rash

## Open Door

Where friends meet to study God's word and apply it's principles to on-going spiritual development. Meet in the Library. Contact Sue Mutchler or Margery Andrew

## Kaleidoscope

This group is for anyone willing to tackle any topic! Room 058 Gil Hewett

## Seekers

The Seekers present several small studies/discussions each year (no homework) to help grow our faith in Jesus Christ. Room: 060

## Pathfinders

Our newest Sunday morning group for adults. We gather to share our lives and discuss God's presence in the world today. Room 055

## Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study always welcomes new friends. This group meets in the chapel at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings. Bring your Bible - whichever one you prefer - and be prepared to read through and discuss the Bible. They are working their way through Job and will continue on from there. No homework or study guide is required, just read along with this group of women and offer your insight. Shirley Bolin and Linda Berneking are the contacts for this group.

## Daily Devotions are Easy To Get Started

Read "The Upper Room" every day - it takes just a minute or two. You'll find a verse of scripture and a real-life lesson to think about. "The Upper Room" is available in print form from the literature rack outside the church office, or online from our church website.

The Upper Room magazine's mission is to provide a model of practical Christianity, to help people feel invited and welcomed into God's presence to:

- listen to scripture as God's personal message, linking their stories to God's story;
- commune with God in prayer;
- see their daily choices and small acts of obedience as part of God's work;
- realize our connection through Christ as a universal family of believers;
- encounter the living Christ and be transformed into Christ's likeness.



## Invest a Weekend, Gain a Lifetime Purpose

- Learn to **see** the Christ among us
- Learn to **be** the Christ among us
- Jump-start your faith and live with a new sense of purpose
- A great opportunity for EVERYONE including YOU

This three-day retreat will take you away from the distractions of life and allow you to refocus on your faith. You'll be immersed in a Christian community. The activities and discussions will encourage you to live out your faith in

new ways. You'll be amply fed, comfortably housed, and you'll have plenty of time for a good night's sleep. Scheduled break times allow ample opportunities for private meditation, social interaction, and fresh air.

This is the **Walk to Emmaus**. How far, you ask? This walk is symbolic, not an actual physical challenge. Facilities and activities are fully accessible to people of all abilities. The name, **Walk to Emmaus** refers to Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus walks with two travelers who do not, at first, recognize him. In this weekend, you'll learn to recognize Christ in the world around you, and will be inspired to be an instrument of His love.

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience for adults, and there is a similar youth experience called Chrysalis. If you have interest in learning more about the **Walk to Emmaus** or Chrysalis, contact the church office, and we can arrange for you to meet someone who has already been - there are many in our congregation. Check out this video at [www.vimeo.com/8697255](http://www.vimeo.com/8697255).

## Upcoming retreats:

July 12-July 15 men Mt Pleasant, IA  
July 19-July 22 women Mt Pleasant, IA  
Oct 25-Oct 28 men Solon, IA  
Nov 8-Nov 11 women Solon, IA

# Self Help

INTERNATIONAL

*Helping People Help Themselves Since 1959*

## May Mission Focus: Self Help International

The mission of Self-Help International is to alleviate hunger by helping people help themselves.

Headquartered in Waverly, Iowa, Self-Help is currently operating sustainable development programs in Ghana, West Africa, and Nicaragua, Central America. Self-Help works to alleviate hunger by assisting the rural poor, small-scale farmers and related enterprises in these developing countries. They help them become self-reliant in meeting the needs of families and communities through training, education, leadership development, and other forms of assistance.



Self-Help is not a relief organization – their focus is on development and sustainability to improve the quality of life with dignity.

Self-Help International devotes its efforts to alleviating world hunger and poverty, by providing opportunities to rural citizens that ultimately leads to self-reliance. Since its inception, Self-Help has served as a vessel; training, education, and opportunities are provided to rural citizens and whole communities in developing countries so that they can have better lives.



Check out the display in the Gathering Place for more information about this ministry based in Iowa, but reaching out to communities around the globe.

## Peace with Justice Sunday– May 27

The United Methodist Church is unwilling to ignore injustice. “Peace with Justice” represents many things – an absence of war, striving to live in harmony with others who may or may not share our beliefs, advocacy and support. When you give on this Special Sunday, you are joining together to break down barriers so that all God’s children have equal access to jobs, education, food, clean water, health care and so much more.

Although we as individuals and single churches may lack the resources alone to affect change in a broken world, participation in Peace with Justice Sunday allows our denomination to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Together, we will make a lasting impact today. Your offering will reach around the world, because together, we do more. Look for the special offering envelopes in the May 27 bulletins to support this ministry.

## Be a Blessing to Someone – Love INC of the Cedar Valley

People in need will often approach a church for assistance. Unfortunately, many churches are not equipped to meet the variety of needs that are presented. That’s not a failure of the churches - at their core, they are faith organizations, not relief agencies. But, the Christian imperative is to help. Love INC works like this: when someone approaches a member church for assistance, they are referred to Love INC. Love INC then conducts an interview to fully determine the need, and which church is best able to assist. Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) pools the strengths of area churches to reach out to those in need - our church is one of 28 partners.

You can be a blessing to someone today by volunteering with Love INC as a Clearinghouse or Community volunteer. If you’re interested in serving with Love INC, fill out a volunteer form found at [loveinccv.org](http://loveinccv.org) or call 266-1264. They’ll get back to you in the next couple of days.



## God is Working Through Us

What exactly is Stephen Ministry? This special care giving ministry began in St. Louis in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, found he was unable to meet the needs of all the people in his congregation. He trained nine laypeople in his church to assist him in providing Christian care to people who needed encouragement.

It went so well that Haugk began training Stephen Ministers in other congregations. That, in turn, led to the establishment of the Stephen Series Leader's Training Course, which trains pastors and lay leaders to go back to their congregations and train others to become Stephen Ministers.

"We train the trainers," said Joel Bretscher, Director of Communications at the Stephen Ministers headquarters in St. Louis. "We train the Stephen Leaders who then go home to train the Stephen Ministers in the congregations." Stephen Ministers then provide one-to-one emotional and spiritual care to people in need.

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need. In Stephen Ministry, women are matched with women and men are matched with men. Our church has been enrolled in the program since 2001. We have sent lay members for Stephen Leader training, and they have come back to train many more as Stephen Ministers. It is a wonderful thing to see God working in both the care giver and care receivers' lives. If you are curious and want to know more about Stephen Ministry, please call the church office at 266-1713 or speak with a pastor.

## "Hope for Harvey" Mission Trip – July 21-29

District Disaster Coordinators and Mission Team leaders from the North East and the East Central Districts of the Iowa Annual Conference are joining forces to send workers to the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC this summer. This is a work trip for ages Senior High to Senior Citizen. Travel by charter bus to Texas and back, but be prepared to sleep on church floors. Helpful skills to have would be carpentry, drywalling, painting, siding, construction, plumbing, or electrical work – but unskilled or semi-skilled assistants are also greatly appreciated. Cost to participate is \$450, and First UMC has funds to cover half of that expense. Registration deadline is May 7. There are information packets at the Welcome Center, or see Pastor Matt German if you are interested or have questions about the trip.



## Scholarships for Mission Trips

Bill & Ione Zach were faithful members of our church for decades, and when they died (Bill in 2005 and Ione in 2011) they left a generous legacy – including an endowment gift for mission use. Rainbow Task Force has determined that a portion of the Bill & Ione Zach Endowment Fund should be used to offset costs for those who want to participate in mission and work trips. If you have dreamed about mission work but are concerned about the cost of such a trip, please contact the church office for information. The foresight and generosity of Bill & Ione Zach could help your dream come true.

## Let's fill the barn this year

Farm animals are a common sight in Iowa, and it seemed appropriate to fill a barnyard to support Heifer International. Donate as you wish throughout the year and we'll keep adding animals like cows, goats, donkeys, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, rabbits, and beehives to the barn in the window of the church office. It'll be fun to see how much livestock we can collect by December of 2018. And remember, Heifer animals are the gift that keeps on giving, so don't be surprised if baby animals appear in the barn every so often.



So far we have a pair of sheep, a goat, a donkey, a pig, and a rooster in the big red barn. The pig is in honor of our outgoing District Superintendent Jackie Bradford, and one sheep in honor of incoming DS Paul Wilcox. They could use some friends to keep them company. Consider giving an animal in honor or memory of a loved one.

## Bibles for Our Sisters in Mitchellville

A very tangible way we can help our sisters behind the razor wire is to provide Bibles for them. We have an opportunity to order new Bibles to be sent to the women's prison directly from Cokesbury. They are given to the ladies in Bible Studies and to keep for their own use. The Common English Bible for Daily Prayer is an easy to read Bible and includes guidelines for a healthy prayer life. This is the Bible that Lisa in the church office has been using, and it's sturdy and feels nice and is easy to use.

These Bibles normally sell for over \$20, but Cokesbury has made special arrangements for friends of the Women at the Well UMC to order them for only \$10. Use the special "Bibles for our Sisters" envelope at the display in the Gathering Place. You can take a look at the type of Bible that your \$10 will provide, too.

## Worship:

### Join the usher team

We have two spots to fill at the 11:00 services (10:00 in summertime ), one in the January/ May/September team and on in the March/July/November team. Please consider serving the church by joining one of these teams. Marilyn Teig is the contact for questions. You can get her contact information from the church office.

### Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at several Sunday morning services. Contact Doug Shaffer if you would like to share your gift of music. Contact: musicman52151@gmail.com

### Prayer Team

Everyone is invited to join the prayer team any Sunday morning as we lift up worship in the chapel at 8:00 a.m. Contact one of the prayer team members if you have any questions: Jim Larson, Genny Van Dorn, Debbie Dance and Jan Hoover

### Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2018 is at the Welcome Center. Sign up now to recognize a special date or to honor a loved one with flowers for the altar. Have the flowers delivered to the church on Friday, please.

## Outreach & Missions:

### Community Meal - Every Month

This is a great ministry of feeding and fellowship and you can be a part of it. Once a month - the fourth Tuesday - we plan, prepare, and serve the meal. Meals are served from 4:30-6:00, and the prep work begins early afternoon. If you would like to help with meal preparation or serving, contact Stephanie Buchs. We can use donations of desserts, too. We welcome new faces. There are opportunities for everyone.

Remember, while our team only serves on the fourth Tuesday, other churches are here cooking and serving every other Tuesday of the month. You're always welcome to come and eat - the community meal is completely free and open to everyone.

### Ongoing Wish Lists

For those who like to shop, we have an opportunity for you! There are several in-church groups that can always use supplies to support their ministries. For your convenience, we have compiled the wish lists for Wee Care, UMCOR School Kits, FirstKids Daycare & Preschool, and Sunday School all on one sheet. And, we have also compiled a list of items that you may have at home that could be repurposed for another use by Lincoln School, our Cardmakers, and River Hills School.

Pick up the Wish Lists sheet on the literature rack outside the church office, or at the donation collection site in the little hallway near the drinking fountain on the main level of the church.

### Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

There is always a need for fabric to make the UMCOR school bags and other stitching projects. The Quilters & Stitchers are looking for durable material for school bags, flannel, and quilting materials for various other uses. There is a designated bin for your fabric donations in the church collection site on the main level in the little hall across from the drinking fountain.

Some people might think of these ministry opportunities as the “little things”, but little isn't the right word.

These are the needs of the church that are on-going in our weekly and monthly cycles of ministry.

These are the support roles that need to be filled and the easy contributions that we all can make to enhance the worship experience for others and to ensure that our ministries are well-equipped and well-staffed.

How can you help?

# 14 Women, Men, Youth

## fellas @ first

### The Call: Tuesday Nights

The Tuesday Night Fellas are following Pastor Matt's current sermon series by working through The Call, a six-week study of Paul's life and ministry. All men are welcome to join us. We're an informal group with a heavy emphasis on fellowship and we don't assign homework for our studies.

6:30 - 8:00 pm, Room 057

### UMC Sportsmen

This is as formal as our meetings ever get. Find us at Toads, Sunday, May 6th at noon. Let's have lunch, catch up, and talk about our upcoming events in May.



### UMC Sportsmen Bike Ride

Saturday, May 19th at 11 AM: UMC Sportsmen presents a Family Bicycle Ride/Potluck at Big Woods Recreational Area. Bring your family, your bikes, and a dish to share. The trail around Big Woods lake is pretty easy for beginners and connects to the rest of the trails in town. We'll have a few grills and some yard games, too. More details to come! Please follow "UMC Sportsmen" on Facebook to keep up to date on all of our events!

### United Methodist Women May News

The Purpose of the organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a Community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

On April 12, the UMW gathered for their Unit Meeting. The guest speaker was our Pastor Steve Williams. He provided a slide presentation "Post cards from the Holy Land". His personalized tour took us to places such as Jericho - the oldest city of the world; the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered; the Shepherds fields outside Bethlehem; and the Church of the Nativity, believed to be built over the birthplace of Jesus. We saw views of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. And finally, the Temple at Jerusalem with its' prominent Wailing Wall and walk Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow). He ended it appropriately with a peaceful look of the Sea of Galilee. His descriptive tour made it feel like we were the tourists!

Joy Circle members served refreshments and Betty Goetsch provided the Devotions, Response Moment, and Worship Center explanation.

Our next Unit Meeting will be our Spring Salad Luncheon held on May 10 in Fellowship Hall.

### UMW Calendar

May 07 - Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Library  
May 08 - Hearts & Hands Circle, 5:30 p.m., Gathering Place  
May 08 - Miriam Circle Bible Study, 1:30 p.m., Library  
May 10 - Unit Meeting, 12:00 Noon, Fellowship Hall, Salad Luncheon  
May 18 - 20 UMW National Assembly, Columbus, OH  
May 21 - Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m., Parlor  
May 22 - Miriam Circle Bible Study, 1:30 p.m., Library  
May 24 - Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor  
May 24 - Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor

### 2018 Mission U:

#### Learning Together for Transformation of the World

The United Methodist Women (UMW) Mission u summer and fall events are wonderful mission education opportunities to study current issues impacting society. Whether you are young or old, laity or clergy, a UMW member or not, a first timer or attend every year, you are invited. All participate in the "Spiritual Growth Study: Embracing Wholeness". Also, attendees may choose to attend either the geographic study Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the U.S. or the social issue study "What About Our Money? A Faith Response".

**When:** July 15 - 17 Summer Mission u, (register by June 17).

October 19-21. Fall Mission u, (register by September 21).

**Where:** Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, 3702 S. Center Street, Marshalltown, Iowa

You may obtain a copy of the brochure and registration form at the counter on the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place. If you have any questions please contact Chris Werling (contact info is on the brochure)

## Thank You's

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, flowers, and good wishes while I was in the hospital and recovering from a couple of strokes. A special thanks to Pastor Steve for his visits.

*Sharon Miller*

Thank you so much for all the thoughtful things you do for my mom, Irene Raub, a resident at Windhaven. She reads the cards over and over and the lap quilt she recently received is beautiful. She a 50+ year member of the Dysert UMC, but it is so nice to have a church closer to her visit and pray for her.

Thank you and blessings, *Pat Jans*

The Education Committee would like to say thank you to the 7th-12th graders who filled eggs, Genny Van Dorn for donating eggs and Jim Larson for helping to hide the eggs. With your help the Easter Egg Hunt was a success.

*Education Committee*

We would like to thank 1st United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls for coming into Northeast Iowa Food Bank and volunteering this past year. You are a big help in our mission to feed northeast Iowa. 1st United Methodist Church donated 109 hours this year. Which according to independentantspector.org is the equivalent of donating \$2509. Thank you again for donating your time. We look forward to growing our partnership with 1st United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls in the coming year.

*Northeast Iowa Food Bank*

## Congratulations to

Zane Slack on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Zane's Eagle Ceremony will be held Saturday, May 12 at 11:00 at Camp Ingawanis in Waverly.

## Sympathy to:

Family and friends of Willard Lee. Willard passed away March 30.

Family and friends of Molly Chase, Molly passed away April 2

Rex and Barb Pershing on the death of their daughter, Jill Jorgensen, on April 14. Her service was held April 20 in Davenport.

Jim & Joyce Christensen and the Etheredge family on the death of Jim's mother and Julie Etheredge's grandmother.

Family and friends of Dennis Shull. Dennis passed away April 16. His service was held at Locke Funeral home on April 21.

Family and friends of Lois Hansen. Lois passed away April 20. Her memorial service will be held Saturday, May 5 at 11:00 at the church. Visitation will be Friday, May 4 from 3:30-6:00 at Richardson Funeral Service

Jane Jansen and the Jansen family on the death of her brother-in-law, Dean, on April 20.

On March 19 I lost the love of my life, and soul mate (Jim Stiles) at our home due to either a very sudden stroke or heart attack. As I travel this unknown journey, I strongly feel the power of your prayers and love. Thanks. I will continue to live in our home that I LOVE at 1309 E. Harrison St., Washington IA 52353. I would love to see you for a hug.

*Jan Stiles*

## Welcome to:

Claire Pearl Bacon and Case Austin Bacon were baptized on April 8. They are the children of Sean and Tia Bacon, and grandchildren of Keith & Shelley Smith.

Ava Jean Mattson was baptized on April 15. She is the daughter of Joshua and Ashley Mattson, granddaughter of Stan & Cynthia Sweet, and great-granddaughter of Claudia Koch and Shirley Huffman.

Charlotte Louisa Stafford was baptized on April 22. She is the daughter of Christopher & Carolyn Stafford, and granddaughter of Jim & Cynthia Kenyon.

## Nominations Committee

Our Leadership Development Committee is beginning the process of recruiting our leadership for the coming program year. Serving your church is a way to witness your faith!

## Save the Date

A celebration of the ministry of Pastor Steve and Janet Williams is being planned for Sunday, June 3, from 2:00 - 4:30 in the Gathering Place. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is in charge of the arrangements.

## Finance Report (as of April 26)

YTD Budget Received	\$324,756
YTD Budget Needs	\$262,306
YTD Surplus	\$62,450
Mortgage Balance:	\$373,984

## Consider Automatic Giving

You'll never need to remember to write a check again! It is quick and easy to set up. Contact our Financial Manager, Debbie Dance for details. 319-266-1713 or email [debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com](mailto:debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com).

## Attendance- week ending

	4/1	4/8	4/15	4/22
Transformation	145	87	85	83
Traditional 8:30	250	122	99	122
Traditional 11:00	205	134	66	124
FUSION	28	21	25	x

# First United Methodist Church

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## aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



**Sunday, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.** Traditional services  
**Sunday, 8:30 a.m.** Transformation Worship

Van rides are available for the 11:00 Sunday service.  
Child care is provided in the nursery for infants and babies for Sunday Services.

### Spreading the Word

If you miss a Sunday, or want to hear a message again, find us on the local Public Access cable television channels. If you are unable to receive the television broadcast, weekly dvds are also available, or find the video links for sermons at [www.aboutfirst.com](http://www.aboutfirst.com)

**Cedar Falls (CFU)** Channel 95.5, Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am  
**Waterloo (MediaCom)** Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:00am & 9:00 pm

### Our Pastors

Steve Williams, Senior Pastor, [steve.williams@aboutfirst.com](mailto:steve.williams@aboutfirst.com)  
Matt German, Associate Pastor, [matt.german@aboutfirst.com](mailto:matt.german@aboutfirst.com)

### Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

Dee Behr, Parish Visitor  
[dee.behr@aboutfirst.com](mailto:dee.behr@aboutfirst.com)

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Ted Bonebrake, Chancel Choir director  
[tbonebrake@hotmail.com](mailto:tbonebrake@hotmail.com)

Chris Congdon, Media Coordinator  
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Flo Mobley, Parish Visitor

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Doug Shaffer, Organist  
[musicman52151@gmail.com](mailto:musicman52151@gmail.com)  
610-4249

Emily Terpstra, Custodian